

PRESS NOTICE



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change



25 February 2016

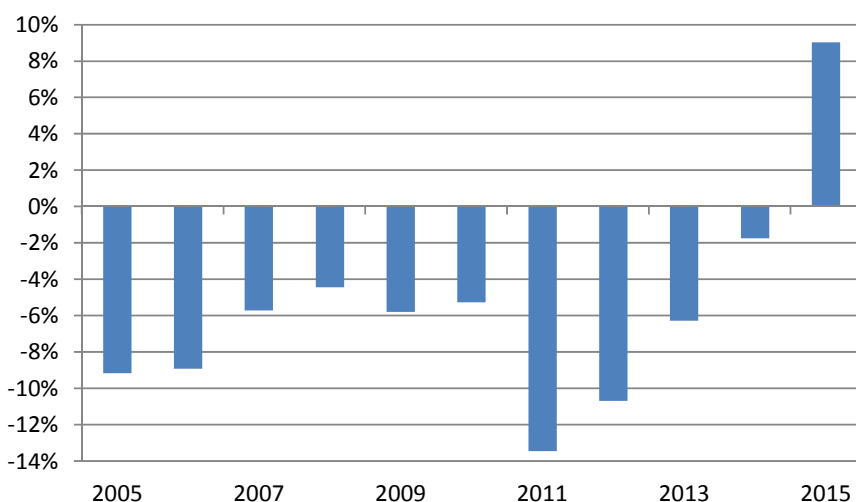
Statistical Press Release

UK Energy Statistics – 2015 provisional data

The Department of Energy and Climate Change today releases its December 2015 energy statistics that allow a provisional assessment to be made of trends in energy production and consumption in 2015. A more detailed analysis will be available in Energy Trends, published on 31 March 2016.

Primary energy production rose by 9.0 per cent on a year earlier to 123.1 million tonnes of oil equivalent. This increase, the first since 1999, was due to rises in oil and gas output. Low carbon energy production rose by 13.8 per cent, with growth due to increased nuclear availability following outages towards the end of 2014, and boosted by strong growth from wind generation in 2015. Production of coal fell by 27 per cent, to a record low, due to mine closures and other mines producing less coal as they come to the end of operation. Energy production in 2015 was marginally above output levels of 2012.

UK energy production – annual growth

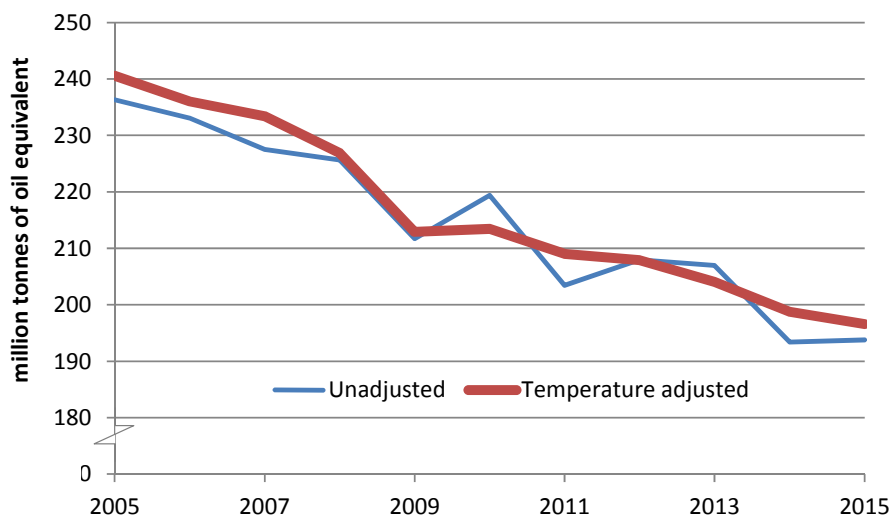


Primary energy consumption on a fuel input basis increased by 0.2 per cent, but on a temperature adjusted basis, was down 1.1 per cent continuing the downward trend of the last ten years. The daily average temperature for 2015 was 0.6 degrees cooler than 2014. Consumption of all fuels increased, except coal due to lower demand from generators and steelworks. Estimates of final energy consumption, including detail by sector, will be published in the March edition of Energy Trends.

With GDP growth of 2.2 per cent in 2015, the energy ratio, a measure of energy efficiency (energy consumption per unit of economic output) is likely to have fallen by around 3.2 per cent between 2014 and 2015; the ratio has fallen at an average rate of 3 per cent per annum since 2000.

The majority of the fall in temperature adjusted primary consumption is likely due to changes in electricity generation, see below.

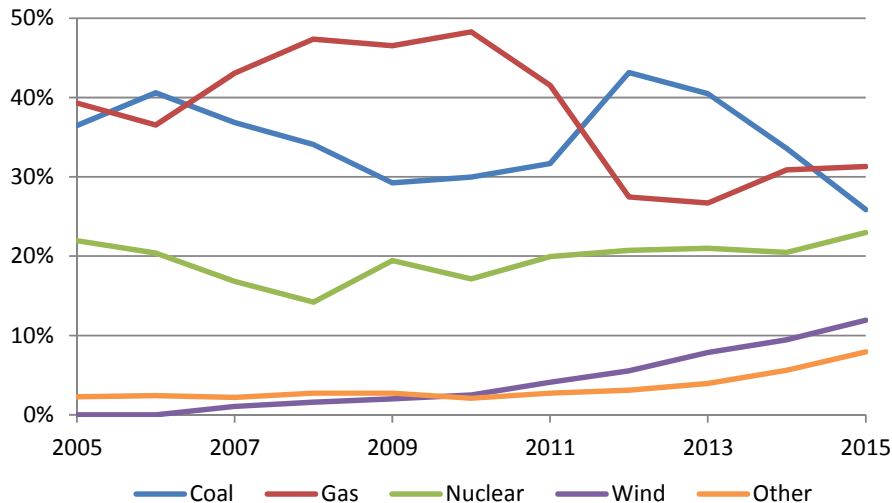
Primary energy consumption



Electricity

At this stage only complete annual estimates are available for Major Power Producers (MPPs), which exclude auto-producers and some renewable sources. Gas accounted for 31.3 per cent of electricity supplied, up marginally from 30.9 per cent in 2014, with coal accounting for 25.9 per cent in 2015 down from 33.6 per cent in 2014 as a result of reduced capacity due to a third unit at Drax being converted to biomass and an increase in the carbon price floor. Nuclear accounted for 23.0 per cent, up from 20.5 per cent in 2014 due to improved availability following outages towards the end of 2014.

Electricity – share of generation from major power producers



Low carbon generation accounted for 42.9 per cent of supply, up from 35.6 per cent in 2014, boosted by higher generation from nuclear and renewables (wind, hydro and bioenergy).

Special note - For wind, hydro and solar, the final electricity produced is set equal to the primary energy consumption. For coal, gas, nuclear and bioenergy – the primary energy consumption is equal to the energy content of the raw material; the final electricity produced though is much lower as there are energy losses in transforming the coal or other fuel into electricity. As a result, the switch from fossil fuels to more wind generation is likely to have decreased primary consumption by around 1 per cent, thus explaining the majority of the fall in primary energy consumption. This also explains part of the fall in the energy ratio.

Gas

In 2015, UK production of gas rose by 8.5 per cent, the first significant increase since 2000, due to the start-up of the Breagh and Jasmine fields and less maintenance activity. Since 2005 output of gas has fallen by around 8 per cent per year. Imports of gas again exceeded UK production.

In 2015 physical flows of imports were up by 4.3 per cent. LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) imports were up 21 per cent, with Qatar accounting for 92 per cent of LNG imports. Norway though remained the key source of imports accounting for 61 per cent, with LNG up to a 31 per cent share. Exports increased sharply, up 34 per cent, with significant growth in shipments to mainland Europe via the Belgian interconnector.



Crude oil and petroleum products

In 2015, UK production of crude oil & NGLs rose by 12.8 per cent, the first significant increase since 1999, due to the start-up of new fields and less maintenance activity. Since 2005 output has fallen by around 6 per cent per year. Imports marginally exceeded UK production, whilst exports rose reflecting increased production volumes.

In 2015, the UK remained a net importer of petroleum products at 9.1 million tonnes, up from 6.3 million tonnes in 2014, driven by higher import volumes.

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Notes to editors

1. [Monthly Energy Statistics](#) are compiled by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, and are available for download on the DECC section of the GOV.UK website. They contain tables and commentary on highlights, and technical notes.
2. More detailed estimates of 2015 will be available on 31 March 2016 when DECC publish the quarterly editions of Energy Trends and Energy Prices. The Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) will be published on 28 July 2016.

